

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method for performing transactions over the internet comprising the steps of:
 - providing a host web site capable of routing web users from the host web site to other web sites;
 - arranging with a cooperating vendor web site to accept payment from the host web site in return for the vendor web site's fulfillment of a customer purchase request made by a customer routed to the vendor web site via the host web site;
 - providing software to be installed on the vendor web site to recognize when a customer has been routed to the vendor web site from the host web site;
 - requesting and obtaining customer's payment information by the vendor web site after an affirmative act by the customer is made to make a purchase on the vendor's web site;
 - transferring customer's payment information from the vendor web site to the host web site when the software on the vendor web site has determined that the customer has been routed to the vendor web site from the host web site;
 - collecting the funds for the transaction by the host web site using the customer's payment information transferred in the preceding step;

20 requesting and obtaining additional information necessary to fulfill the
21 customer's purchase request by the vendor web site;
22 fulfilling the customer's purchase request by the vendor web site; and
23 transferring a percentage of the funds collected by the host web site to the
24 vendor web site upon completion of the preceding step

1 2. The method for performing transactions over the internet of claim 1 wherein the host
2 site can route web users to a plurality of vendor sites.

1 3. The method for performing transactions over the internet of claim 2 wherein the step
2 of fulfilling a customer's purchase request comprises the act of shipping a product to the customer.

1 4. The method for performing transactions over the internet of claim 1 further
2 comprising a step for storing information with respect to a plurality of transactions.

1 5. The method for performing transactions over the internet of claim 1 wherein the step
2 of recognizing recognize when a customer has been routed to the vendor web site from the host
3 web site comprises the recognition of a cookie placed on the customer's computer by the host web
4 site.

1 6. The method for performing transactions over the internet of Claim 1 further
2 comprising the step of creating a modified URL of the vendor's web site to distinguish customer's
3 routed from the host web site from customers not routed from a host web site.

1 7. The method for performing transactions over the internet of Claim 1 further
2 comprising the step of generating a report indicating funds owed to vendor web sites by the host
3 web site.

1 8. The method for performing transactions over the internet of Claim 2 further
2 comprising the step of generating a database of information collected from the vendor web sites.

1 9. The method for performing transactions over the internet of Claim 1 further
2 comprising the step tracking the status of each transaction, where the status can be obtained by
3 commands on the host web site.